

and reach of its service. In addition to acute and preventive health care found at other medical centers, the many programs offered by the center make it a truly comprehensive care institution. These programs include diabetes and cardiovascular disease prevention and education and afterschool and mentoring programs for youth. Furthermore, the center has responded to the cultural sensitivities of the community by employing Native and non-Native staff members. Staff diversity increases the effectiveness of any healthcare institution, a fact which the center has recognized and incorporated into their operating procedures. In January 2004, I had the opportunity to visit the center and was impressed at the level of technology this collaborative effort had been able to bring to this rural community.

I commend the Benewah Medical and Wellness Center on its tremendous achievement in the overall community healthcare and wellness. I look forward to hearing of future successes.●

HONORING CENTURY COUNCIL FOR NATIONAL PROM AND GRADUATION SAFETY MONTH INITIATIVE

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of Alcohol Awareness Month to recognize The Century Council for its efforts to prevent underage drinking. The Century Council is a national, not for profit organization funded by America's leading distillers to develop and implement programs designed to combat drunk driving and underage drinking. These programs, such as Ready or Not: Talking with Kids About Alcohol, Brandon's Story, and Alcohol 101 Plus, are making great strides in reducing the amount of underage drinking and irresponsible consumption of alcohol.

Right now, The Council is kicking off its sixth annual National Prom and Graduation Safety Months Initiative. Between April and June, The Council has planned a series of events across the country to educate students, parents and the general public about making responsible decisions with regard to beverage alcohol. Over the past two decades, progress has been made in the effort to stop underage drinking through the implementation of effective programs and increased public awareness regarding the negative consequences of underage drinking. According to the most recent figures from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 749 people under the age of 21 were killed in alcohol-related traffic crashes during April, May and June in 2003 as well as countless non-fatal injuries. In Louisiana, alcohol is a factor in 20 percent of all traffic fatalities involving minors, and it is a factor in 15 percent of all traffic accidents involving minors.

It was once said that "holding young people solely responsible for underage drinking is like holding fish responsible for dying in a polluted stream."

As a mother of two young children, I know that I will soon have to speak to my own kids about alcohol use. As all of the other parents in this Chamber and across the country can say, the conversation between a parent and a child about alcohol use is not always an easy conversation. However, improved communication between parents and children is essential to preventing underage drinking. According to a recent survey by TRU Omnibuzz in 2003, 65 percent of adolescents identify parents as the leading influence in their decision to drink or not to drink. Unfortunately, 36 percent of adolescents say they had not spoken to either parent about alcohol. This communication gap can be minimized by through programs that increase awareness, educate parents and kids and help facilitate conversations between parents and kids about the dangers of underage drinking.

The role of parents in the efforts to reduce underage drinking is critical. I commend The Century Council for giving parents and children across the Nation the valuable tools to initiate those important discussions regarding alcohol.●

CONGRATULATING JERRY VEREEN AND RIVERSIDE MANUFACTURING COMPANY

● Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I congratulate Riverside Manufacturing Company on Riverside being named "Manufacturer of the Year" for the State of Georgia. Riverside is located in my hometown of Moultrie, GA. Riverside was founded in 1911 by William J. Vereen, in Colquitt County, and has maintained its headquarters there to this day. Riverside is known worldwide both for producing business uniforms of superior garment quality and for the dedication of its employees.

Riverside sells uniforms in all 50 States, as well as in over 200 foreign countries. Riverside warehouses products in Atlanta, GA; Dundalk, Ireland; Moultrie, GA; Prichard, WV; and Reno, NV. Riverside won this year's distinction of Georgia's Manufacturer of the Year in the large company category; that is, those with more than 750 employees. Riverside was nominated for the award by Moultrie Technical College.

Governor Sonny Perdue presented this coveted award to my good friend Jerry Vereen, who is president and chief executive officer of Riverside, last Thursday in Atlanta at an annual awards ceremony as part of Georgia Manufacturing Appreciation Week.

Jerry was quoted as saying:

We were very pleased that the award recognized all the dedication and hard work that Riverside's associates have put forth to look after all our great customers. The only sustainable competitive advantage any company can have is based strictly on its people. You can buy technology, equipment and buildings but it takes the dedication of a lot of people to give Riverside the competitive edge with our customers, especially when all

of our competitors have taken their manufacturing offshore. This award recognizes our associates' dedication to exceeding our customers' expectations. It also acknowledges their efforts to contribute significantly to the communities where we are located. We feel that Colquitt County and Georgia are great areas to build a company. We are very appreciative to Jackie Rohosky and her Quick Start team, Tina Anderson and her Moultrie Technical College team, Darrell Moore, Jimmy Jeter and the members of the Moultrie Colquitt County Industrial Development Authority, as well as the Colquitt County Commissioners, Moultrie City Council and the Colquitt County Chamber of Commerce for all the assistance they have given Riverside and our associates over the years.

I am so proud of Jerry, of Riverside, and of all of Riverside's many employees, 600 of which call Georgia home. I extend my deepest and most sincere congratulations on their receipt of this prestigious award in recognition of a job well done.●

HONORING EAST BRUNSWICK HIGH SCHOOL

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, more than 1200 students from across the Nation will be competing in the finals of the "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" program here in Washington, DC, from April 30-May 2, 2005. This program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and is designed specifically to educate our young people about the U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the importance of civic participation to our political process. Schools are provided with textbooks that offer both historical information and critical-thinking activities, and students compete in the format of a congressional hearing to show their knowledge of our democracy.

I am proud to announce that students from East Brunswick High School in East Brunswick, NJ, will be returning this year to defend their national title earned in May 2004. East Brunswick High School won my home State's competition again this year and will represent New Jersey in our Nation's Capital this weekend. I wish the following students, and their teacher Alan Brodman, the best of luck in the future and congratulate them on their hard work and inspiring civic advocacy: Rajiv Agarwal, Elliot Chiu, Theresa Cui, Yan Cui, Aditi Eleswarapu, Michael Genson, Stephanie Horwitz, Frances Huang, Manisha Johary, Michael Kofsky, Kevin Kuo, Sam Lau, Alexandra Palmer, Resham Patel, Mark Pruce, Panwan Punjabi, Caroline Rana, Natalie Rana, Sana Sheikh, Allison Sorkin, Ilana Stern, Eric Struening, and Lauren Volosin.●

CONGRATULATING FRANK DURKAN

● Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I am delighted today to extend congratulations to Mr. Frank Durkan on the 50th anniversary of his admittance to the New York State bar. Born in County